

# EMERALD NECKLACE

*parks*

## MAP AND GUIDE



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*parks*

Nestled amid the bustle of a vibrant modern city, a delightful urban oasis beckons: the Emerald Necklace. Weaving continuously for seven miles from the historic center of Boston through a dozen neighborhoods, this inviting green space connects people and nature, just as landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted intended more than 100 years ago. Nine distinct parks, varied yet unified, offer a full range of experiences, be it a tranquil respite on a shaded bench or active pastimes such as basketball, hiking, and sailing. From an arboretum to a zoo, the Emerald Necklace's attractions are as diverse as the New England seasons. Ice skate, garden, play golf, toss a football . . . or simply stroll along the curving pathways and admire the next picturesque vista. The Emerald Necklace: a world apart, but just steps away.

# EMERALD NECKLACE

*legacy*

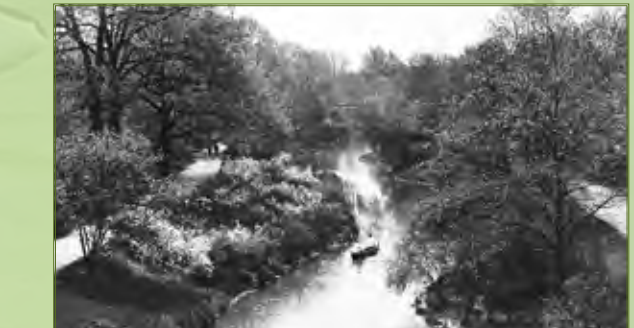
The richly varied parks of the Emerald Necklace reflect people's very different attitudes about, and uses of, landscape across more than four centuries—from the colonists of the 1600s to the "father of landscape architecture" in America, Frederick Law Olmsted, in the late 1800s, to the present day.

Not long after arriving in Boston, early colonists—in the English custom—set aside a shared pasture, or "common," for grazing livestock. Today, human activity fills Boston Common—America's oldest public park which anchors the northeast end of the Emerald Necklace in the city's dense downtown core.

Adjacent to Boston Common, the Public Garden was built in 1837 as the country's first public botanical garden, an expression of the Victorian era passion for ornamental plantings. The Commonwealth Avenue Mall (1856), a grand 12-block approach to the Public Garden, was laid out in the Parisian-inspired boulevard style as the central spine of the new Back Bay residential district.



The Muddy River was completely re-shaped by teams of men and horse-drawn machines. The photo on the left shows how the new river banks looked in 1892, ready for plantings. By 1920, Olmsted's vision had grown into reality.



© NPS Olmsted National Historic Site



© Jill K. Conley

## FRANKLIN PARK

This "country park" is the largest park—almost 500 acres—and crowning jewel of the Emerald Necklace. Named for Benjamin Franklin, the park was to provide "complete escape from the town" and brings together rural scenery, 200 acres of woodlands, and active recreation facilities. These include tennis and basketball courts, baseball fields, the region's premier cross country track, and an 18-hole golf course. A 72-acre zoo is also part of what the park has to offer, along with miles of some of the best walking trails in the city.



© Arnold Arboretum Archives

## ARNOLD ARBORETUM

Established in 1872, this is North America's first public arboretum and one of the world's leading centers for the study of plants. A National Historic Landmark, it is owned by the City of Boston and managed by Harvard University under a 1,000-year lease signed in 1882. A unique blend of beloved public landscape and respected research institution, the arboretum's 265 acres of rolling land include meadows, forest, and ponds. Its collection of over 15,000 trees, shrubs, and vines is one of the largest and best documented collections in the world.



© Jill K. Conley

## PARKWAYS

Parkways were an integral element of the portion of the Emerald Necklace park system designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Originally laid out as carriage roads, the parkways were intended as pleasure routes following the meanderings of the Muddy River, connecting the parks from the Back Bay Fens in the heart of the city to the more rural Franklin Park. Although the parkways have become major commuter routes, they continue to provide scenic glimpses into the parks and a more verdant experience for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.



© Dan Tobyne

## JAMAICA POND

An early water source for Boston, this 68-acre "kettle-hole" was formed by retreating glaciers. Olmsted was enamored of the pond's "great beauty in reflections and flickering half-lights." Today, the Boathouse at Jamaica Pond provides facilities for sailing and row boating. Visitors can fish (by permit), and the pond is stocked each year. A beautiful 1.5-mile path around the pond is a favorite of strollers and runners alike. In October, the annual Lantern Festival brings thousands of people, some in full Halloween costume, for a walk around the pond to create their own "flickering half-lights."



© Dan Tobyne

## OLMSTED PARK

Olmsted Park was designed as "a chain of picturesque fresh-water ponds, alternating with attractive natural groves and meads." Pathways, bridges, and plantings, designed in tandem, allow the visitor to experience a series of visual vignettes as scenery changes with every step. To help draw wildlife into the park, Olmsted built two islands in Leverett Pond to provide "well-guarded seclusion" for birds who wished to nest there. Today, people are drawn to the athletic fields, the wildflower meadow, the seclusion of the woodlands, and the restored Allerton Overlook.



© Solomon Fund

## THE RIVERWAY

The Riverway, which forms part of the border between Boston and Brookline, is a narrow park of approximately 34 acres that runs along the Muddy River. Olmsted described the Muddy River as "a fresh-water course bordered by passages of rushy meadow and varied slopes. . . ." While it looks like a natural landscape, this park was almost completely constructed, including over 100,000 plantings. It contains some of the most beautiful bridges within the Emerald Necklace, many designed by the successor architectural firm to Henry Hobson Richardson, the famed 19th-century architect and designer of Boston's Trinity Church in Copley Square.



© Don Eunsou

## BACK BAY FENS

Frederick Law Olmsted's challenge in 1878 was to reclaim an area that was described as "the foulest marsh and muddy flats to be found anywhere in Massachusetts. . ." He succeeded by combining sanitary engineering and landscape art to create what today would be called an ecological restoration. Significantly filled and altered during the 20th century, the Back Bay Fens now provides a variety of recreational opportunities, from gardening, to concerts, to sports. The Fens is surrounded by some of Boston's major cultural and educational institutions.



© Jill K. Conley

## COMMONWEALTH AVENUE MALL

This grand allée of shade trees forms the central spine of the Back Bay neighborhood and a strong link in the Emerald Necklace park system. The Mall features memorial sculptures honoring outstanding people; from Revolutionary War heroes to fallen firefighters. The residential streets of Back Bay are some of the best preserved examples of late 19th-century urban architecture in the country.

Because of space limitations, this map highlights only four of the nine sculptures along the mall. For more information about the sculptures: [www.walkboston.org/resources/images/commmove/Map.pdf](http://www.walkboston.org/resources/images/commmove/Map.pdf)



© Dan Tobyne

## PUBLIC GARDEN

The Boston Public Garden was established in 1837 by a group of Proprietors as the first public botanical garden in the United States. In 1852 it was returned to city control, and after passage of the Public Garden act of 1858, it was laid out essentially in its present form. The beauty of the Boston Public Garden lies in the Lagoon, Swan Boats, sculpture, fountains, elaborate flower beds, and its notable trees. All these features make the park a favorite spot for small weddings (by permit).



© Boston Parks and Recreation

## BOSTON COMMON

The oldest park in the United States, the Common has been shared land since 1634 and holds a unique place in the history of Boston and the nation. Though the landscape has changed from pastures and militia training grounds to a well-loved park with open lawns, shaded pathways, ballfields, tennis courts and a playground, the Common remains an active meeting ground in the heart of historic Boston. For over 350 years it has been a center and a mirror of civic life.

## GREENSPACES

*nearby*



© DCR

## ESPLANADE

The Storrow Memorial Embankment known as "The Esplanade" is the crown jewel of DCR's Charles River Basin. Stretching three miles along the river, the Esplanade provides for a diversity of recreation including biking, boating, and playing ball. The Hatch Memorial Shell is located here, which attracts hundreds of thousands of people to special events including the Boston Pops July 4th concert. Water quality in the Basin has improved dramatically in recent years, creating better habitat for wildlife and attracting people back to the river.



## SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR

This 4.7-mile, 52-acre, linear park stretches from the Back Bay to Forest Hills. Some of the parkland is decked over the Orange Line tracks, providing a diversity of greenspace, recreational facilities and miles of biking, jogging and walking paths. The park was built as a result of community protests in the '50s and '60s against the plans for a major highway along the railroad right-of-way between Boston and Rte. 128. Highway funds were instead used to develop mass transit, open space and recreational facilities.



© Cecily Hill

## FOREST HILLS CEMETERY

Predating most of the Emerald Necklace, Forest Hills Cemetery was designed by Henry A.S. Dearborn in 1848 as Boston's first rural cemetery. It immediately became popular as a picturesque park and arboretum as well as burial ground. With its winding roads and scenic overlooks, groves of pine forest, and ornamental lake, Forest Hills embodied the romantic concept that nature is essential to consoling the bereaved and to the spiritual and physical well-being of city dwellers. Its 250-acres are filled with treasures of sculpture and memorials to legendary Bostonians. Information on tours and events: [www.foresthillstrust.org](http://www.foresthillstrust.org)



© Boston Nature Center

## BOSTON NATURE CENTER

Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center is a 67-acre community education center and wildlife sanctuary in the heart of the city. Some 2.5 miles of trails and boardwalks traverse meadows and wetlands where wildlife abounds, including coyotes, pheasants, and many species of migratory birds. The George Robert White Environmental Conservation Center is Boston's first municipal building designed and constructed using ecologically sound construction practices such as photovoltaic shingles, geothermal climate control, renewable resources, and recycled materials. [www.massaudubon.org/boston](http://www.massaudubon.org/boston)

## Postcards, circa 1900-1920



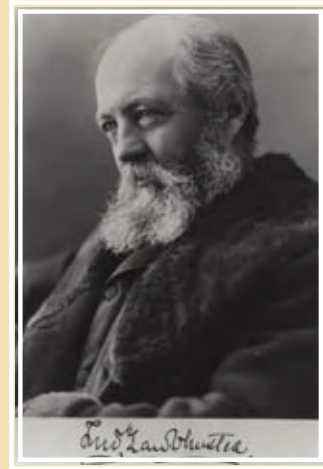
Image courtesy of the Paget Family



Arnold Arboretum, Boston, Mass.



Olmsted Park, Boston, Mass.




© NPS Olmsted National Historic Site

### FREDERICK LAW OL MSTED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Frederick Law Olmsted moved his home from New York to suburban Boston in 1883. At "Fairsted" he established the world's first full-scale professional office for the practice of landscape design. During the next century, his sons and successors perpetuated Olmsted's design ideals, philosophy, and influence. Today the two-acre site is a unit of the National Park Service and holds a vast archival collection representing over 5000 projects across North America. This includes over 2000 plans and close to 1000 photographs of the Emerald Necklace. The site also offers a variety of public and curriculum-based education programs.

99 Warren Street  
Brookline, MA 02445  
617.566.1689 [www.nps.gov/frla](http://www.nps.gov/frla)



© NPS Olmsted National Historic Site

### PARK STEWARDS

The extraordinary 1,100 acres of the Emerald Necklace are owned and cared for by the joint efforts of Boston, Brookline, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These public agencies hold the parks in trust for the public, ensuring the parks are open to everyone, everyday, year-round.



**Boston Parks & Recreation** manages most of the Necklace's park land, which accounts for more than half of the department's total park acreage. In the 1990s, BP&R under the leadership of late Parks Commissioner Justice Mee Liff helped spearhead the renewal of the Olmsted-designed parks. [www.cityofboston.gov/parks](http://www.cityofboston.gov/parks) 617.635.PARK



**Brookline Parks & Open Space** manages the western sides of Olmsted Park and the Riverway. Brookline has the unique distinction of having added to the acreage of Olmsted Park in the late 1990s by converting a redundant road into a fully landscaped, dual path system. [www.brooklinema.gov/parks](http://www.brooklinema.gov/parks) 617.730.2088



**The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation** has "care, custody and control" of the Emerald Necklace Parkways, which are managed as scenic, pleasure-vehicle roadways and protected under the Massachusetts Historic Parkways Initiative. [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr) 617.626.1250



**Friends of the Public Garden** Since 1970, the Friends of the Public Garden has been dedicated to preserve, protect and enhance the Public Garden, Boston Common and Commonwealth Avenue Mall, Boston's three premier historic parks in the heart of the city. Through a highly effective partnership with the City, the Friends have planted and maintained hundreds of specimen trees, restored fountains and monuments, helped to establish and support the Park Rangers, and created educational and recreational park programs. Through advocacy, education, and hands-on care, the Friends play an essential role in ensuring that these public treasures continue to be healthy, vital places for those who live, work and visit the City of Boston now and in years to come.



**Emerald Necklace Conservancy** The Emerald Necklace Conservancy brings people together to renew, enliven and advocate for the Emerald Necklace parks designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Programs and projects reflect this mission and include: Parks restoration and maintenance; stewardship and volunteer activities; education programs and tours; as well as events in the parks. The Conservancy builds strong partnerships with the public-sector park owners, with neighborhoods and individuals, businesses and organizations, in order to keep these world-class, Olmsted-designed parks healthy and vibrant for today and tomorrow.

#### DIRECTORY OF STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Arborway Coalition: [www.arborway.net/coalition](http://www.arborway.net/coalition)—617.276.5093  
Arboretum Park Conservancy: [www.arboretumparkconservancy.org](http://www.arboretumparkconservancy.org)  
Emerald Necklace Conservancy: [www.emeraldnecklace.org](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org)—617.522.2700  
Emerald Necklace Greenway Project: 617.777.7151  
Fenway Garden Society: [www.fenwayvictorygardens.com](http://www.fenwayvictorygardens.com)—617.267.6650  
Franklin Park Coalition: [www.franklinparkcoalition.org](http://www.franklinparkcoalition.org)—617.442.4141  
Friends of Jamaica Pond: [www.friendsofjamaicapond.org](http://www.friendsofjamaicapond.org)—617.524.7070  
Friends of Leverett Pond: [www.hightreetreehill.org/folp](http://www.hightreetreehill.org/folp)  
Friends of the Muddy River: 617.566.9720  
Friends of the Public Garden: [www.friendsofthepublicgarden.org](http://www.friendsofthepublicgarden.org)—617.723.8144

### Map Donors

This map is made possible by the following generous donors:

- Emerald Necklace Conservancy
- National Park Service (Challenge Cost Share Program)
- John & Naomi Tomfohrde Foundation
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Friends of the Public Garden
- Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
- Brookline Parks & Open Space
- Arborway Coalition
- Boston Parks & Recreation
- Forest Hills Cemetery
- Forest Hills Educational Trust
- Medical Academic and Scientific Community Organization (MASCO)
- Mass Audubon Boston Nature Center
- Fenway Alliance
- Friends of Jamaica Pond
- NewEnglandTravelPlanner.com
- Wellesley Garden Study Group
- Zoo New England
- Friends of the Muddy River
- Ferris Wheels
- Jill K. Conley



Peters Hill © Arnold Arboretum Archives

### Credits

- Jill K. Conley, graphic design/map design
- Ken Dumas, cartography
- Alan Banks, Ken Krause, writers
- Don Eunsou, project manager
- Dan Tobyne, cover photo





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*parks*

## WALKING AND RUNNING DISTANCES

If you would like to add physical activity to your daily life, the Emerald Necklace offers beautiful paths that are convenient to different neighborhoods. Here are a few suggestions. Distances are approximate

Public Garden, at Charles St., to Charlesgate East:  
roundtrip **2.5 miles**

Back Bay Fens Loop (Endpoints: Boylston Bridge **31** & Ave Louis Pasteur): roundtrip **1.6 miles**

Riverway Loop (Fenway T Station to Netherlands Road):  
roundtrip **1.5 miles**

Leverett Pond Loop (Good for families with small children):  
roundtrip **.7 mile**

Jamaica Pond Circumference: **1.5 miles**

Arnold Arboretum, Hunnewell Bldg. **13** to Peter's Hill Summit **10** :  
roundtrip **3.5 miles**

Franklin Park Walking Loop: **2.5 miles**



- ### PARK FEATURES

**1 White Stadium**

**2 Overlook Shelter Ruins:** Originally a field house, it was one of the few structures Olmsted ever designed. The site was the home to Elma Lewis' Playhouse in the Park in the '60s and '70s, and jazz greats, including Duke Ellington, performed here.

**3 The Playstead:** A large, active sports area that accommodates basketball, tennis and many field sports.

**4 Franklin Park Zoo:** Founded in 1912, the zoo's 72 acres are home to lions, tigers, giraffes, and more. Visitors to the signature Tropical Forest can stand face-to-face with the Zoo's seven gorillas at one of five glass viewing stations. Heroic statues by Daniel Chester French flank the north entrance. \$ [www.franklinparkzoo.org](http://www.franklinparkzoo.org)

**5 William J. Devine Golf Course:** Originally a sheep meadow in Olmsted's design, this 18-hole facility is the second oldest public golf course in the country. Open year round, weather permitting \$ 617.265.4084

**6 Schoolmaster Hill:** Named for Ralph Waldo Emerson who lived near this site in the 1820s when he was a schoolteacher in Roxbury. This hidden spot has picnic tables, century-old white pines, and offers a spectacular view across the park and to the Blue Hills beyond.

**7 The Wilderness:** A 65-acre native oak forest with meandering paths and huge Roxbury puddingstone outcroppings, the Wilderness is a picturesque landscape and a good example of urban woodlands.

**8 The 99 Steps/Ellicott Arch**

**9 Scarboro Pond and Hill**

**10 Peter's Hill:** The highest point in the Emerald Necklace, Peter's Hill (240 feet) offers spectacular views of Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, and the Boston skyline.

**11 Explorers Gardens:** The area around Chinese Path has long been used by researchers to test the hardiness of new plants gathered from around the world by plant explorers. Don't miss rare and unusual plants like the dove tree, paperbark maple, or *Franklinia*.

**12 Larz Anderson Bonsai Collection:** See the oldest and smallest trees at the Arboretum. Open mid-April to early November.

**13 Hunnewell Building:** This building houses administrative offices, a library open to the public, and a visitor center with knowledgeable staff to help make the most of your visit. Maps, brochures, restrooms, as well as a small bookstore. *Visitor center hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun noon-4pm*

**14 Jamaica Pond Boathouse/Bandstand:** Built in 1912, these Tudor-style structures add a rustic element to the pond. Visitors can rent sailboats or rowboats to enjoy unique views of the park or simply drift on the water. ([www.courageousculling.org](http://www.courageousculling.org)). The Bandstand is a picturesque landscape and a good example of urban woodlands.

**15 Parkman Memorial:** Daniel Chester French, Sculptor

**16 Pinebank Promontory:** A peaceful spot in this busy park, the promontory's stunning views across the Pond and cooling breezes through tall pines made it an attractive site for three successive mansions in the 1800s. Today, a granite outline marks the footprint of the last mansion that stood here.

**17 Ward's Pond:** This secluded pond is a glacial "kettle-hole" formed at the end of the last ice age. A serene, heavily wooded area, the visitor finds a quiet wilderness, steps from the surrounding city.

**18 Wildflower meadow:** Once the site of an indoor ice skating rink, the meadow now offers unique habitat for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

**19 Daisy Field:** Olmsted originally designed this as a large meadow surrounded by woods. Today, playing fields serve community groups for little league, softball, soccer and touch football.

**20 Allerton Overlook:** This semi-circular walk descends into the park and provides scenic views of the banks and islands of Leverett Pond.

**21 Leverett Pond:** Leverett Pond is a fine example of Olmsted's skill combining landscape, water, and structure into his designs. Islands were created to provide both visual interest and waterfowl breeding area.

**22 Bellevue Street Bridge:**

**23 Chapel Street Bridge Area/Historic Bridle Paths:** Bridges played a key role in all of Olmsted's work, not only along rivers, but everywhere that he sought to separate different modes of transportation. The Chapel Street Bridge separated walkers above from the bridge path below.

**24 Round House Shelter**

**25 Joseph Lee Playground (Clemente Field):** This area accommodates softball, soccer, lacrosse, football, basketball and a recreational running track. One of the diamonds was named in honor of Roberto Clemente—the first Latin American elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame—who died in a plane crash while doing humanitarian work in Central America.

**26 James P. Kelleher Rose Garden:** Designed by landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff in the 1920s, this garden was restored by the City of Boston and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. Combining the best of old and new roses, today's garden includes over 1,500 plants representing 200 different varieties.

**27 War Memorials**

**28 Japanese Bell:** Found on a scrap heap in Yokosuka, this beautiful 325-year-old temple bell was brought back by sailors on the USS Boston in 1945. In 1953, the Japanese government wished it to remain in Boston as a gesture of world peace.

**29 Gatehouses:** These massive, granite buildings in the Richardsonian style, were built to regulate the waters of Stony Brook flowing into the Muddy River. (Future site of Emerald Necklace Conservancy visitor center)

**30 Victory Gardens:** Victory Gardens were cultivated during World Wars I and II to ease demand on the wartime food supply. Today the plots are tended by recreational gardeners who pay a small yearly fee—and grow much more than vegetables.

**31 Boylston Bridge:** Designed by prominent 19th-century architect H. H. Richardson, this bridge is constructed of Cape Ann granite. Projecting bays, or "tourelles," offer sweeping views across the Fens.

**32 Leif Eriksson Statue**

**33 Boston Women's Memorial:** Mayor Thomas M. Menino reserved the site for a women's memorial in 1992. The Boston Women's Commission selected Abigail Adams, Lucy Stone, and Phillis Wheatley as exemplary figures. *Meredith Bergmann, Sculptor*

**34 Samuel Eliot Morison Statue:** This scholar, educator, and maritime historian was the Pulitzer-prize winning author of the "Oxford History of the United States" (1927) and "The Oxford History of the American People" (1965). *Penelope Jencks, Sculptor*

**35 William Lloyd Garrison Statue:** Publisher of "The Liberator" and founder of the New England Anti-Slavery Society, Garrison was a powerful voice in the abolitionist movement. *Olin Levi Warner, Sculptor*

**36 Alexander Hamilton Statue:** Hamilton, a Founding Father who also started the central banking system, welcomes visitors to the Mall between Arlington and Berkeley streets. *Dr. William Rimmer, Sculptor*

**37 9/11 Memorial**

**38 George Washington Statue:** Thomas Ball, Sculptor

**39 Swan Boats:** These iconic pedal boats first appeared on the Lagoon in 1877. Designed by Robert Paget, they are still owned and operated by the Paget Family. \$

**40 Make Way for Ducklings Sculpture:** Mrs. Mallard and her eight ducklings were created as a tribute to Robert McCloskey, author of a children's book about ducks that live in the Public Garden's Lagoon. *Nancy Schön, Sculptor*

**41 Central Burying Ground:** Purchased in 1756 and added to the Common in 1839, this is the final resting place for Revolutionary War soldiers and many others.

**42 Soldiers and Sailors Civil War Monument:** *Martin Milmore, Sculptor*

**43 Frog Pond:** Site of 1848's "Water Celebration" inaugurating the city's public water system, today the pond serves as a skating rink in the winter and a supervised wading pool in the summer. The Tadpole Playground is nearby.

**44 Shaw Memorial:** This honors the 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry. Led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, the 54th was the first free black regiment in the Union. *Bronze relief by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Granite frame and terrace by Charles F. McKim*

**45 Brewer Fountain**

**46 Boston Common Visitors' Center and Park Ranger Station:** Maps, tourist information, and restrooms. This also marks the start of the Freedom Trail ®. *Hours: Monday–Saturday, 8:30 am–5pm; Sunday 10am–6pm*